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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

1845.

No. 51.

November 10, 1845.

GEORGE PETRIE, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Mr. Ball made a communication, the object of which was to shew that the article called a crotal, of which there are three specimens in the Academy's Museum, had properly but one disc, and not two, as represented in Ledwich's *Antiquities* (plate xxiv. fig. 6), and Camden's *Britannia* (Gough's Ed. vol. iii. plate xxxiv. fig. 1). He founded his arguments upon the fact, that the three specimens in the Academy's Museum (Nos. 2, 3, 4, of the annexed cut) were each evidently perfect, while that figured by Ledwich and Camden, which still exists in the University Museum, is a compound of two specimens, most rudely and *recently* rivetted together with a common copper rivet. (See No. 1, annexed cut).

Mr. Petrie stated, that of the six specimens said to have been found at Slane, he had seen three which were certainly double, though he would not undertake to say that they had not been compounded, as that in the University Museum quite evidently is. A gentleman who had been recently in Persia, on seeing the specimens in the Academy Museum, stated, that in that country, at the present day, they were used in the manner of castanets for keeping time, and that

they were not provided with double discs. The manner in which boys here hold and beat time with long bits of slate, may be a specimen of the practice of using crotals.

The Secretary of the Academy read a notice of an Ogham Stone found by Mr. Nevins in the County of Wexford. A rubbing of the inscription was also exhibited; but it was so imperfect, from defects in the stone, that its publication in a wood-cut would answer no end.